

ULTIMATE DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN: PRELUDE

BENDIS • SAMNEE • PONSOR



SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL®
ISSUE
155

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The bite of a genetically-altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible arachnid-like powers. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power there must also come great responsibility.

Now the fledgling super hero tries to balance a full high school curriculum, a part-time job, and swing time as the misunderstood, web-slinging Spider-Man!



PREVIOUSLY IN ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN:

Spider-Man is now living with Johnny Storm, a.k.a. the Human Torch, and Bobby Drake, a.k.a. Iceman. Both have disguised themselves as his cousins and are going to school like normal kids.

The world peacekeeping task force S.H.I.E.L.D. has decided to put their foot down as far as all things Spider-Man are concerned. Spider-Man is told that he must undergo afterschool super-hero training if he is to continue fighting crime.

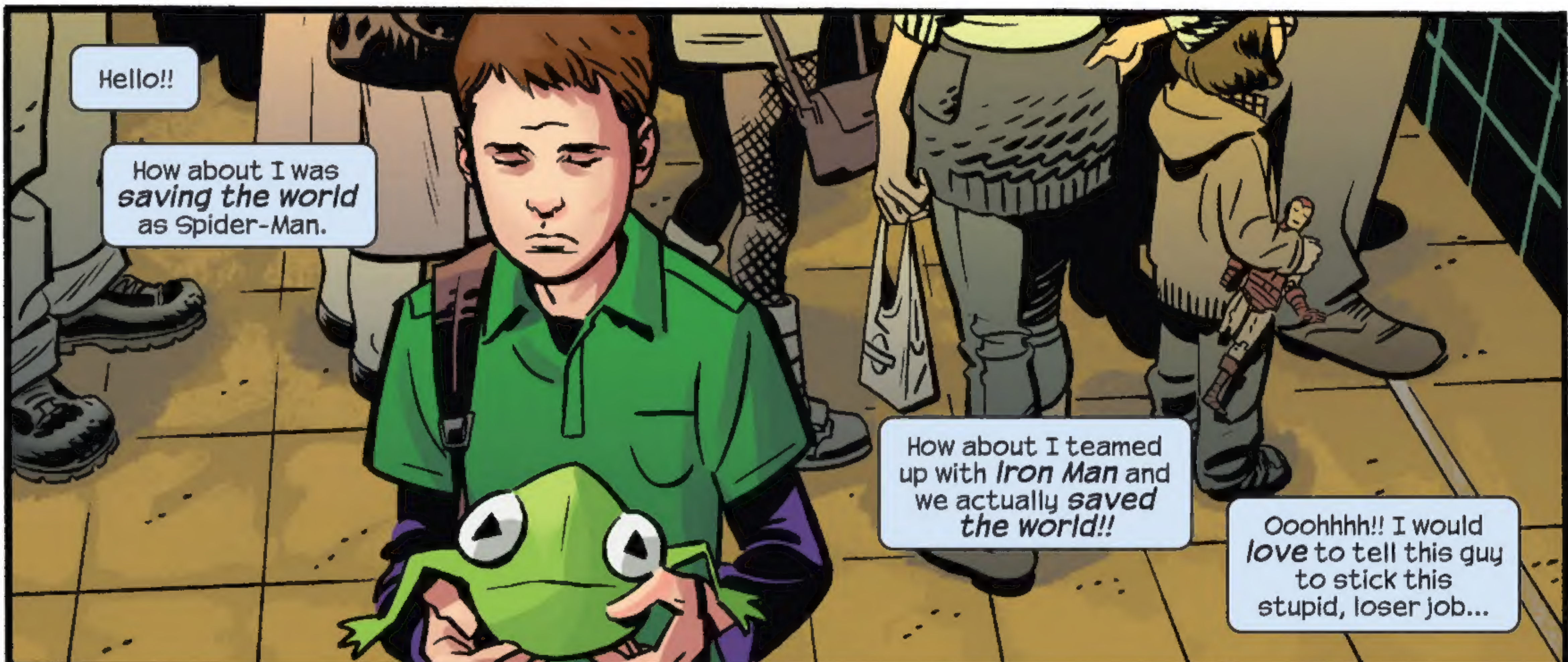
Iron Man shows up as his first tutor. After a grueling battle against Mysterio and the Black Cat, Peter winds up in the arms of his first and ex-girlfriend Mary Jane Watson.

Another of Peter’s ex-girlfriends, the mutant Kitty Pryde, former X-Man, ran away from a mutant-fearing public and hasn’t been seen since.

J. Jonah Jameson, publisher of the Daily Bugle.com and once Spider-Man’s most vocal opponent in the press, came to realize that Spider-Man is maybe the most important person in the city. Since then, Jameson has discovered that Spider-Man is none other than his ex-employee Peter Parker.



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This is *not* going to be fun.

This is one of those things--you know what this is--this is one of those things that I thought--that I *tricked* myself into thinking would just *go away*.

That I could just click my heels and it would magically go away.

It's about the most immature thing I do.



When something really bad happens, I just hold my breath and hope for the best.

Idiot.

My ex-boss J. Jonah Jameson, the man who owns the internet in New York City, now *KNOWS* I'm Spider-Man.

And I just...go about my day.

And yes, yes, I am baffled like I've never been baffled before that he has not outed me.

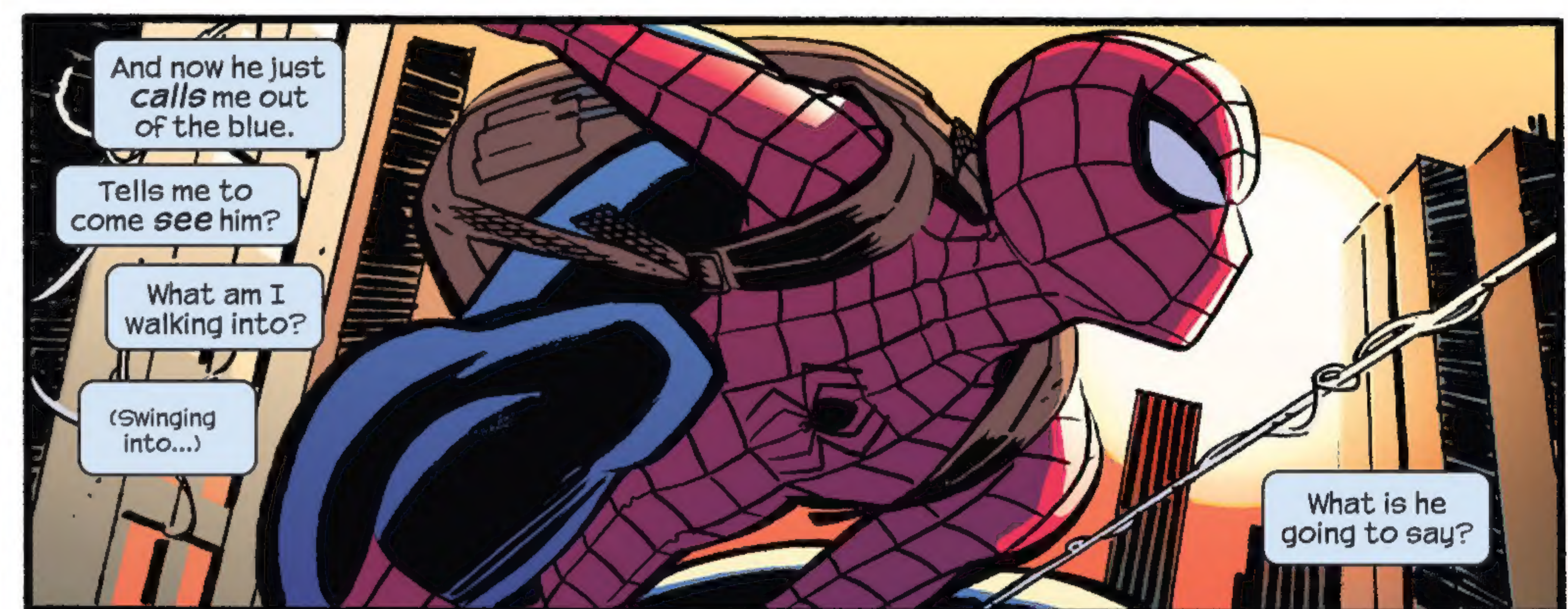
I can't believe it.

Not only has he *not* outed me, but the press has been going on daily pro-Spider-Man cheerleading routines, which is the *opposite* of what he *used* to do.



I remember I used to pray to Thor for this guy to figure out I'm not the devil and to crawl out of my nose, and now that he has...

Well it's just creepy is what it is.



And now he just *calls* me out of the blue.

Tells me to come *see* him?

What am I walking into?

(Swinging into...)

What is he going to say?



Half of me thinks no matter what he says it *can't* be any worse than the way things are going lately...

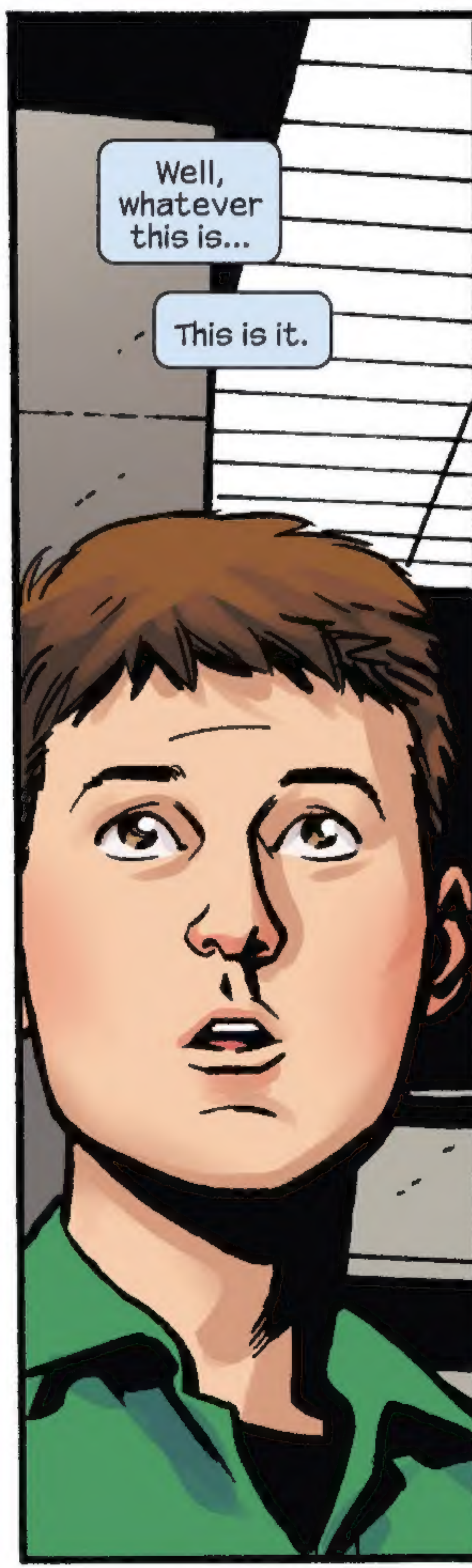
And the other half of me thinks that me thinking that it can't get any worse is *always* followed by something *fantastically* worse happening.

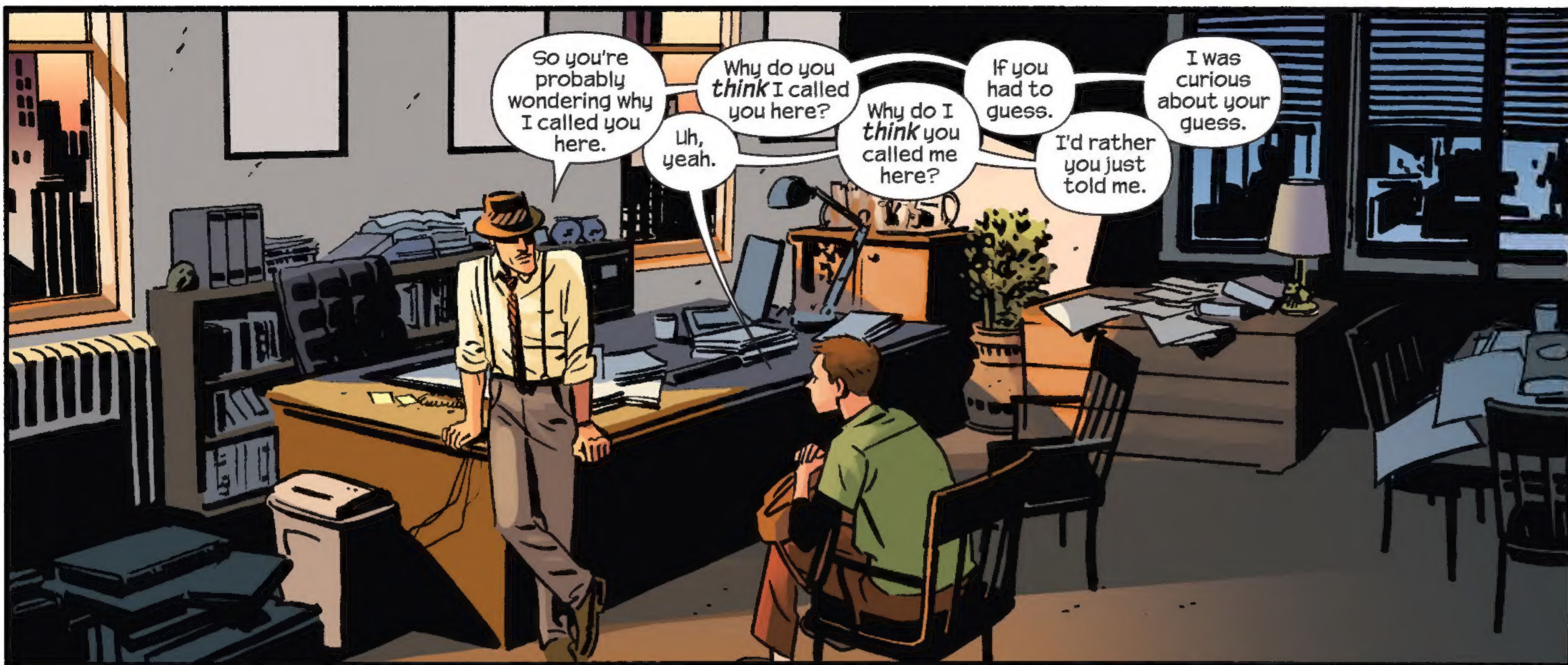
I mean *always*.



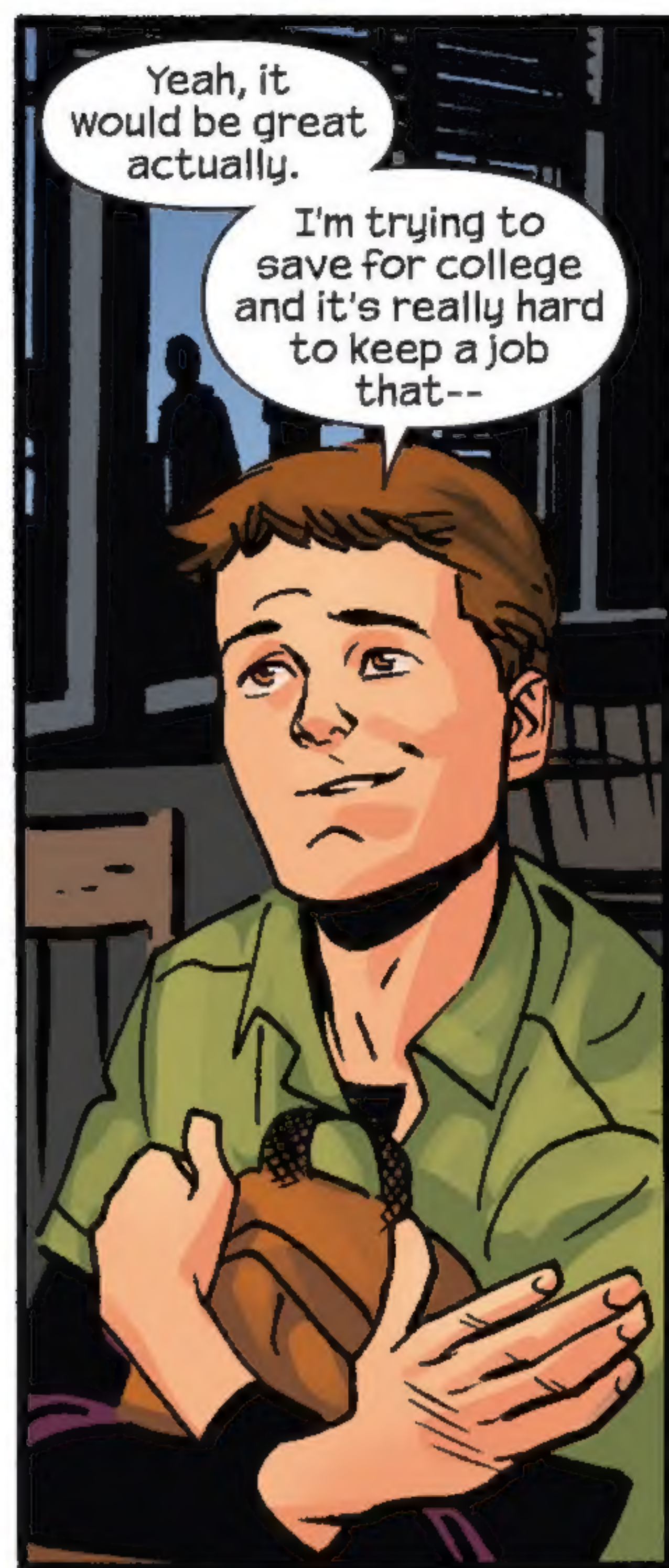
I mean, if I could figure out a way to sell my ability to take something bad and turn it into something worse...

Well, I wouldn't have to worry how and when to pay for college.









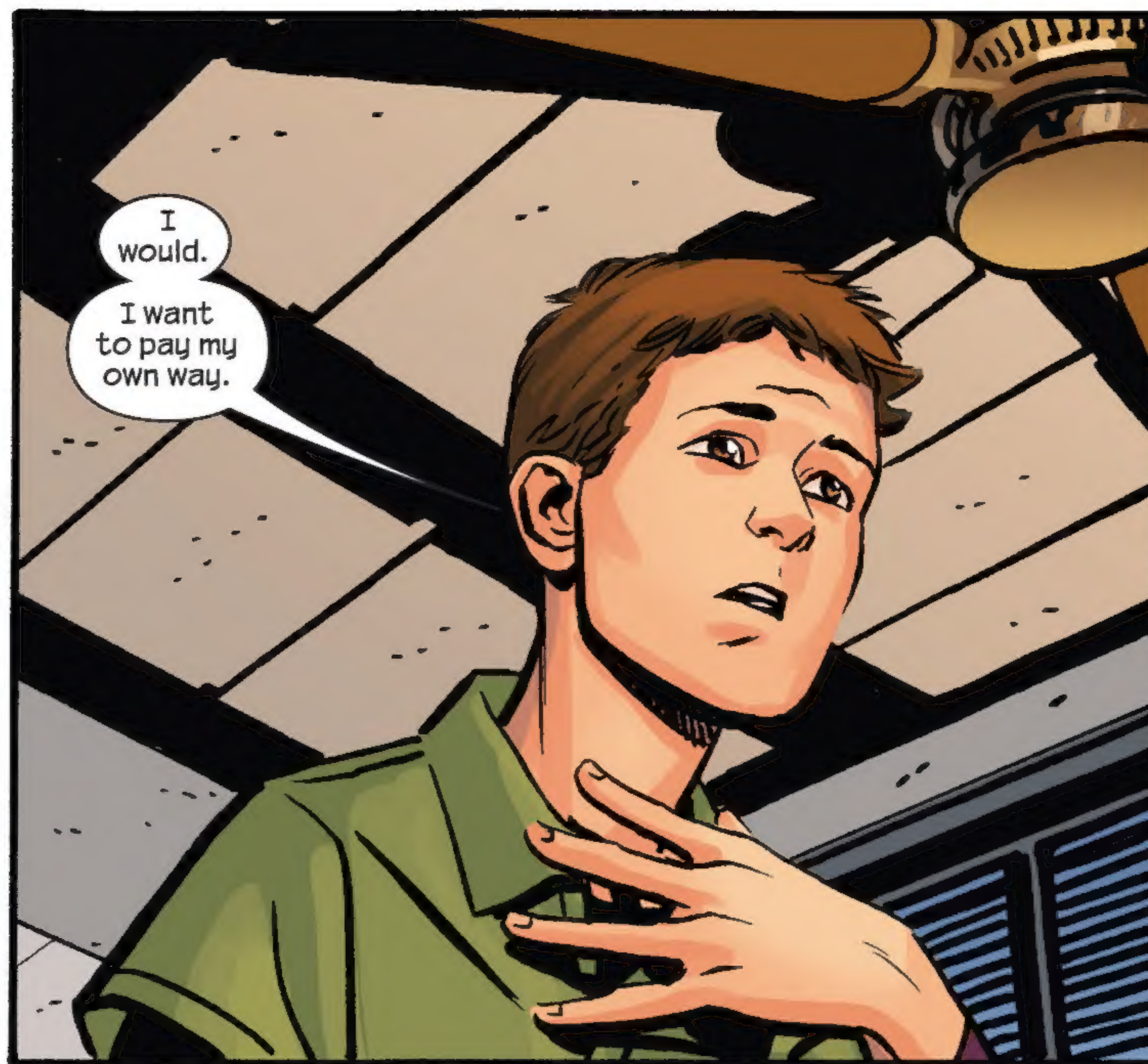


What?
No.

I wasn't
even *hinting*
at that--not
even a little--!!

I'm a
very rich
man.

I wouldn't
even notice it
was happening.



I
would.

I want
to pay my
own way.



You want
to pay your own
way, but you won't
use your powers
to do it.



Yeah.



I know I just
said this two
minutes ago...

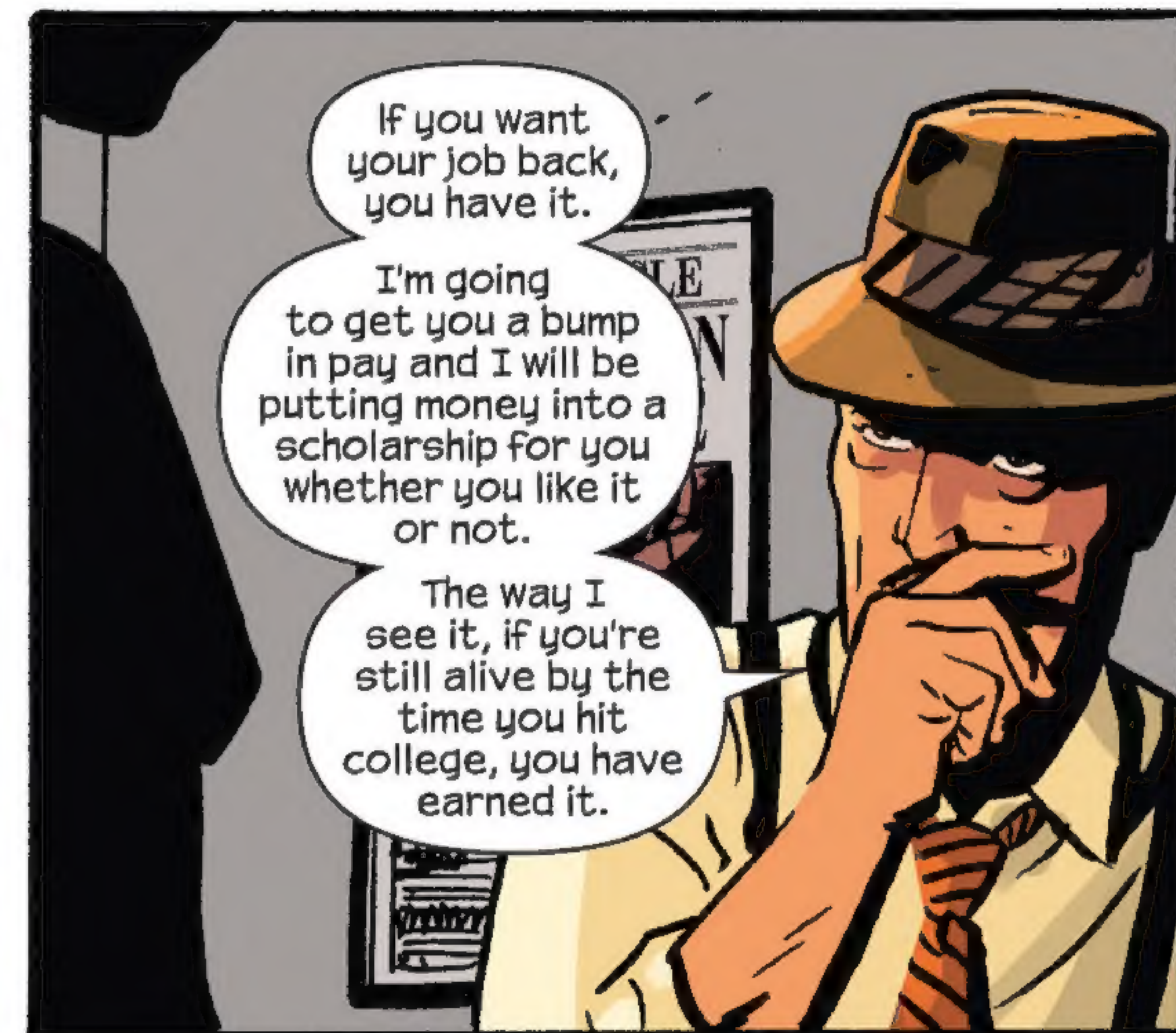
But I have
never ever met
anyone like you
before in my
entire life.



I am *crazy*
uncomfortable
talking about
this like this.

Like *out*
loud.

Like
what?



If you want
your job back,
you have it.

I'm going
to get you a bump
in pay and I will be
putting money into a
scholarship for you
whether you like it
or not.

The way I
see it, if you're
still alive by the
time you hit
college, you have
earned it.



I just
need a
job.



I told
you, I need
to be part
of this.

It's not
enough.



Okay, well,
then...

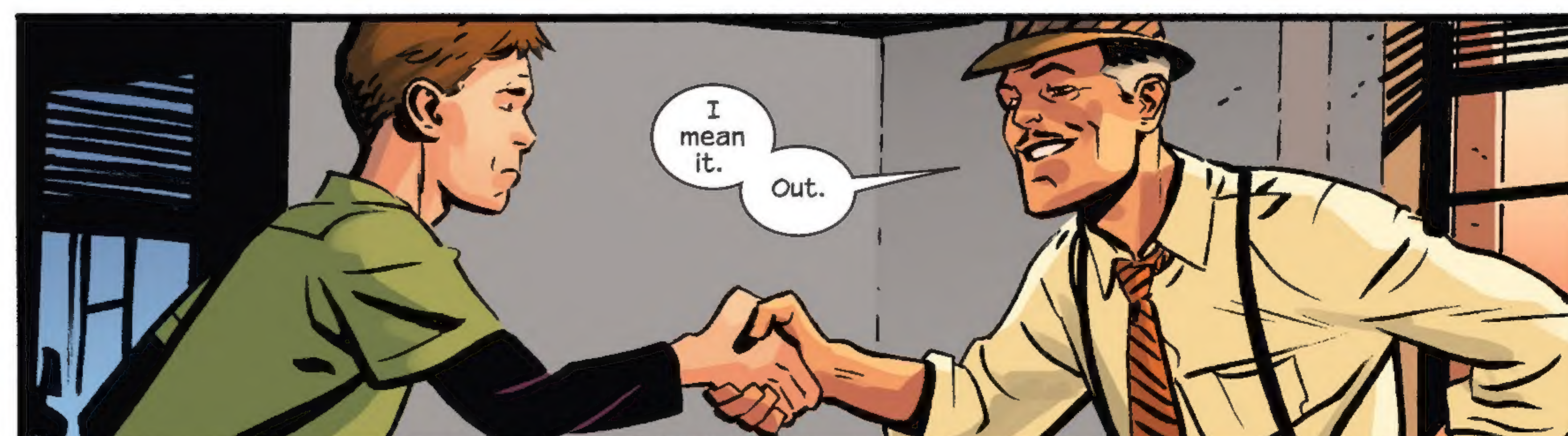
I guess I
need a job that
if for *some* reason
I can't make it in
because I get caught
up doing, you know,
something
else...

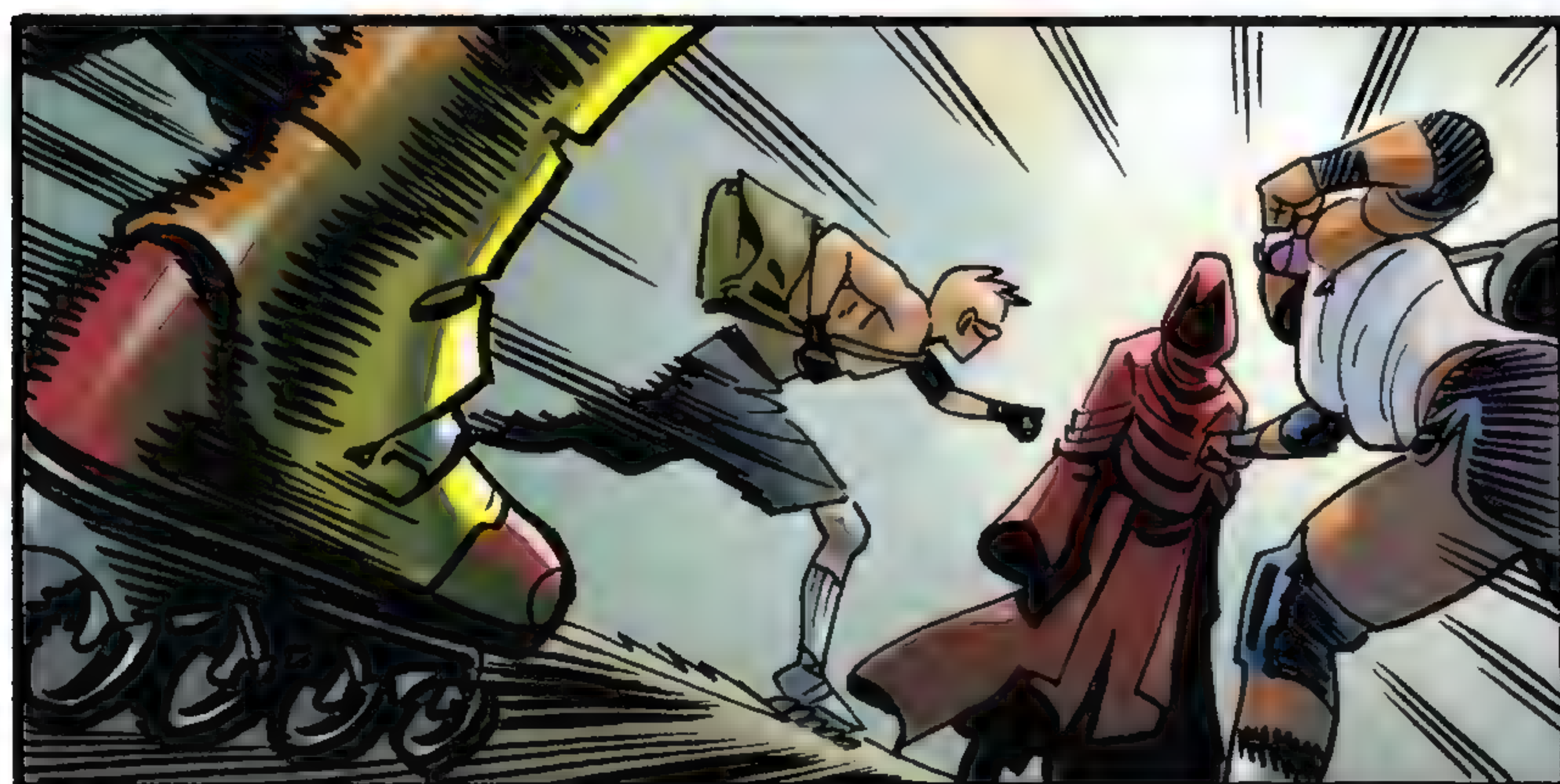
(If you
get my
meaning...)

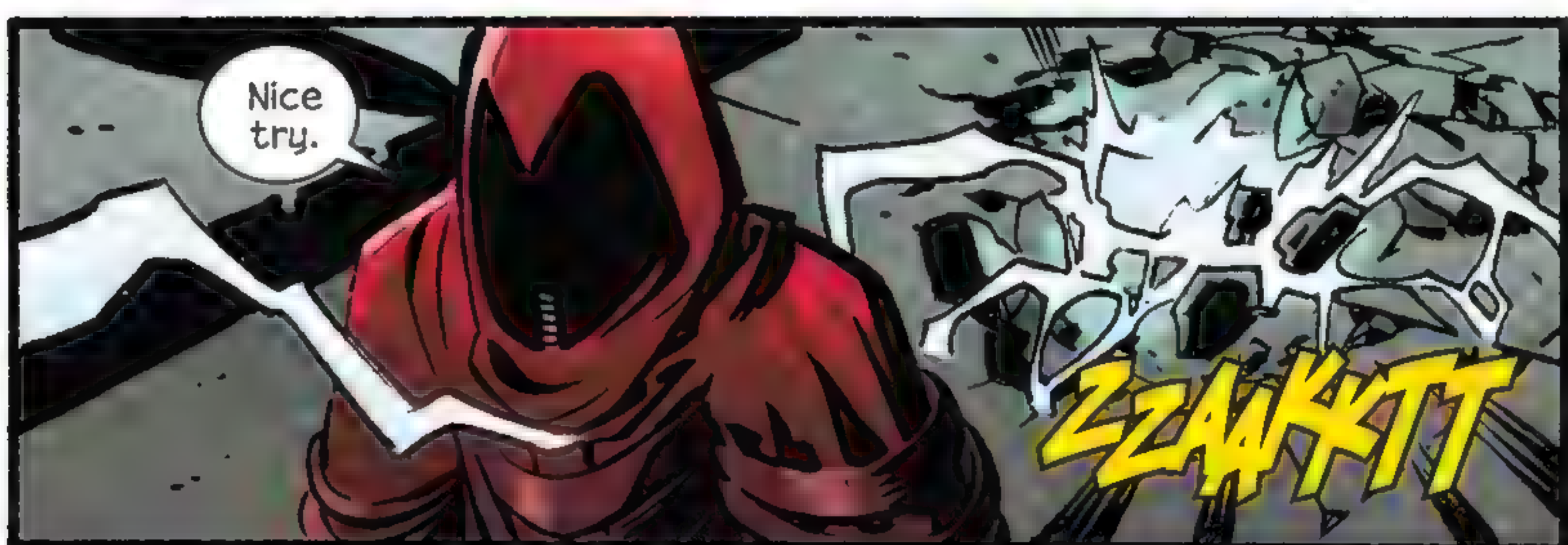
If I don't
show up, I
don't want to
get fired.

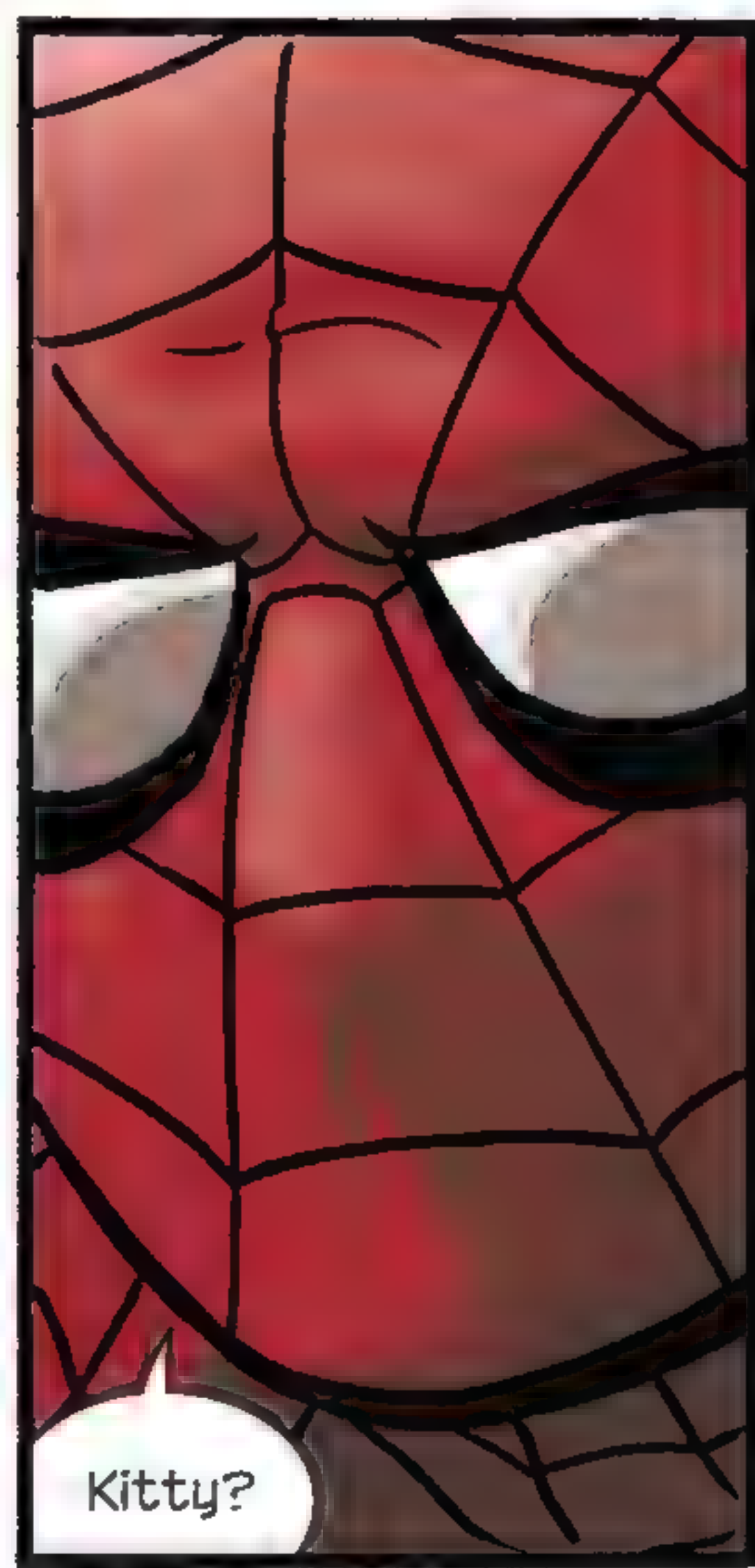
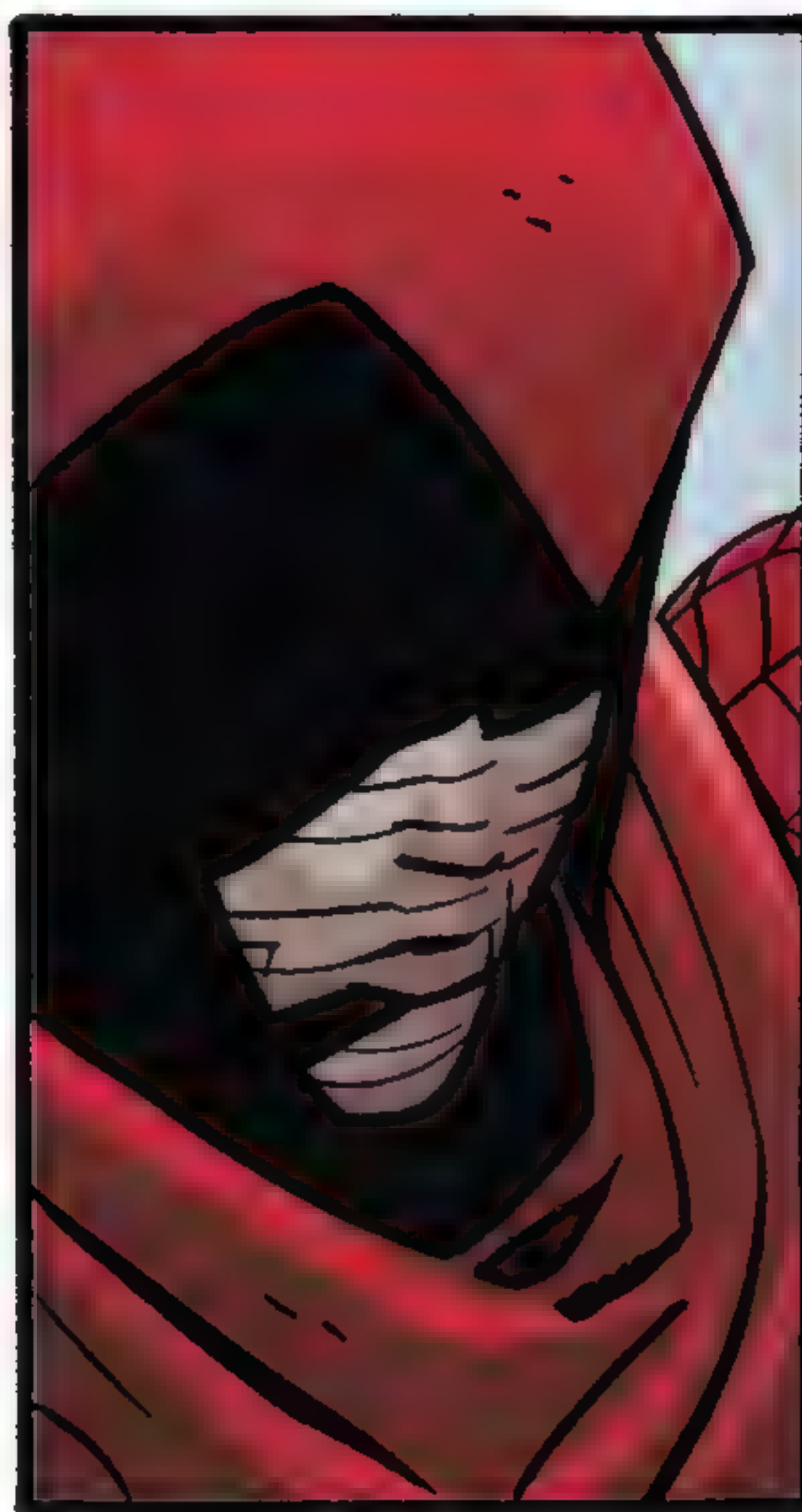
How
about
that?













Queens

I freaked out.

No kidding.

Don't make fun. This is hard.

I'm not.

I just--I'm not sure what I am supposed to do. I'm a mutant in a mutant-hating world.

Not the *entire* world.



Well, *enough* of the world.

Sure.

What am I supposed to do? I'm on the run.

I like the new look.

I know. I'm such a Goth cliché.

I like it.



We kicked those guys' tuchises.

Yeah.

You're getting stronger.

Well, that's the good thing about being mad at the world...

There's always some fool looking for a beating. There's always someone to take it out on.

I'm so glad you haven't gone bad.



Bad?

Evil?

Evil.

You know...

I'm *mad*... I'm not crazy.

And I have a *right* to be mad.

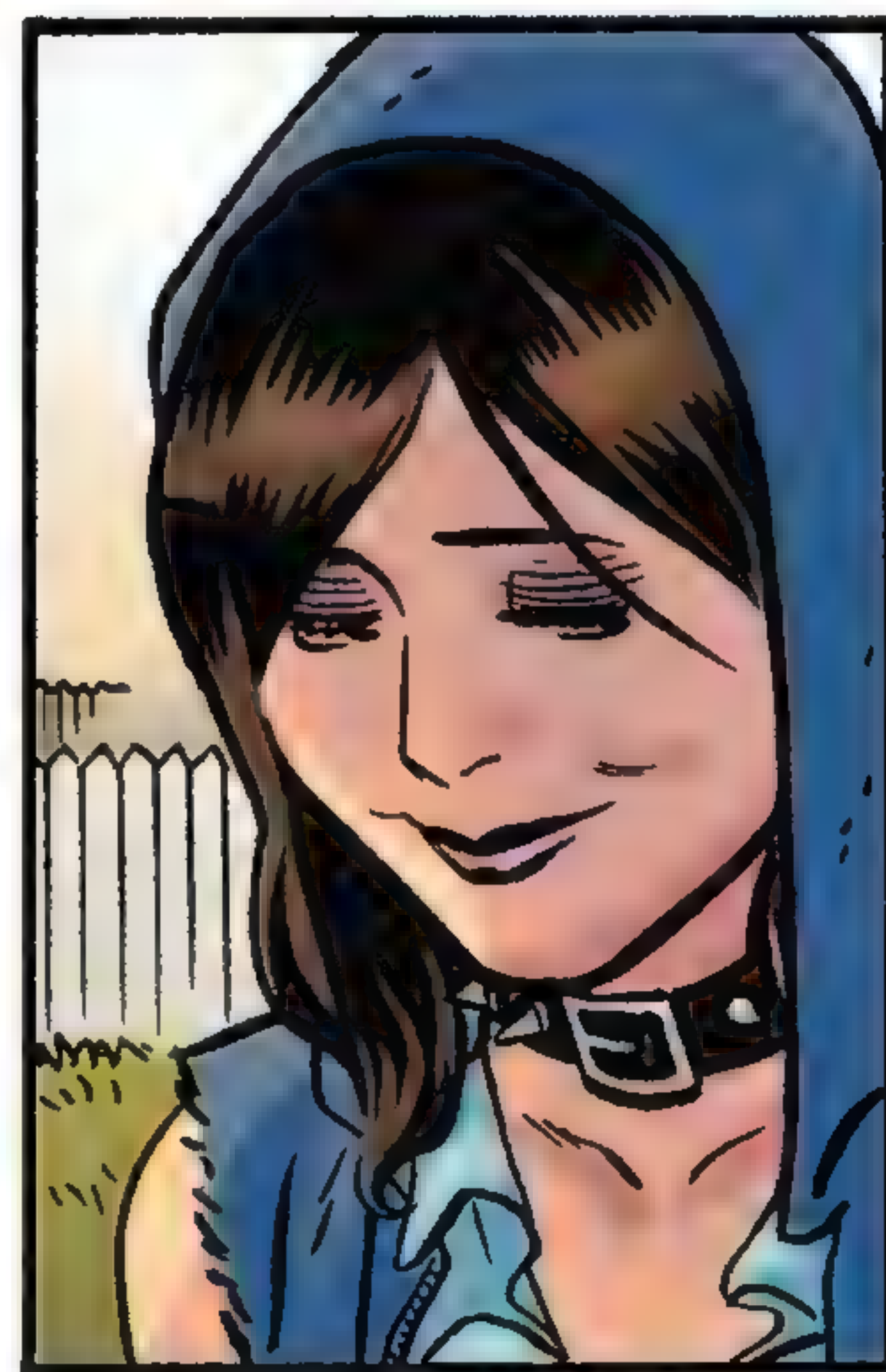
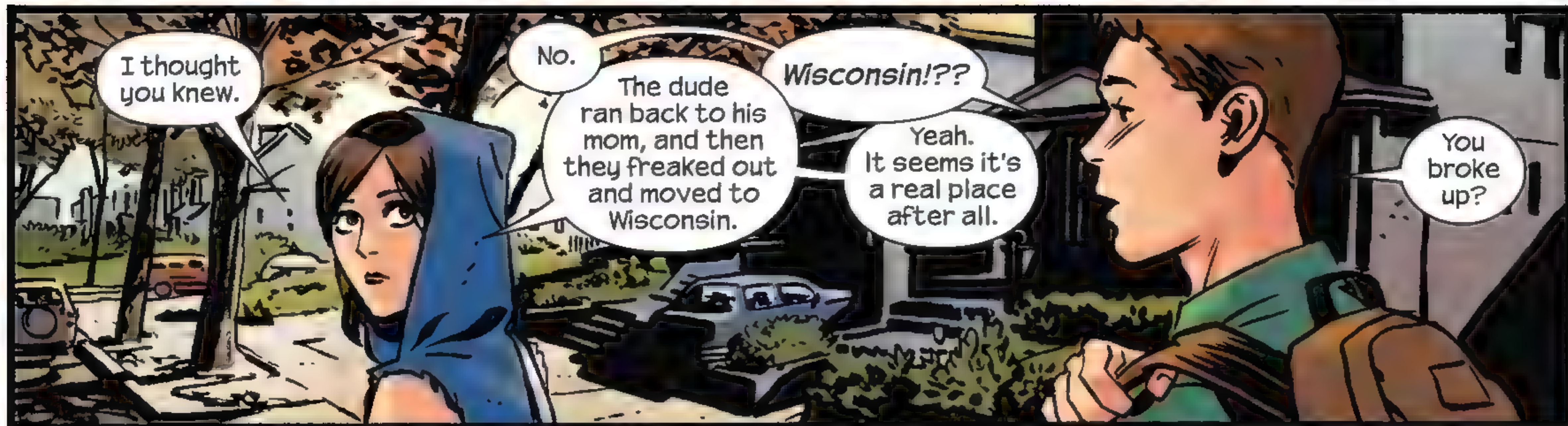


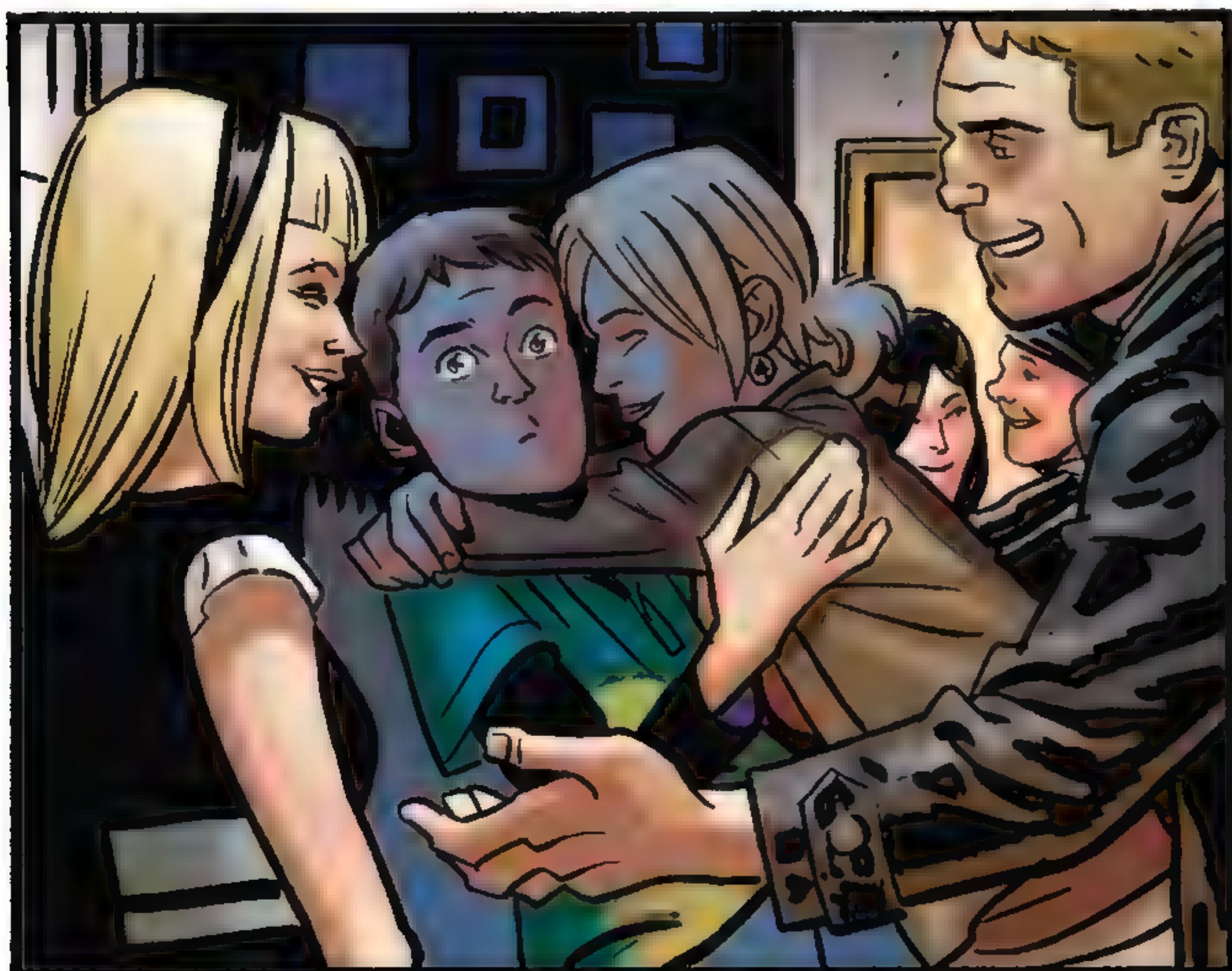
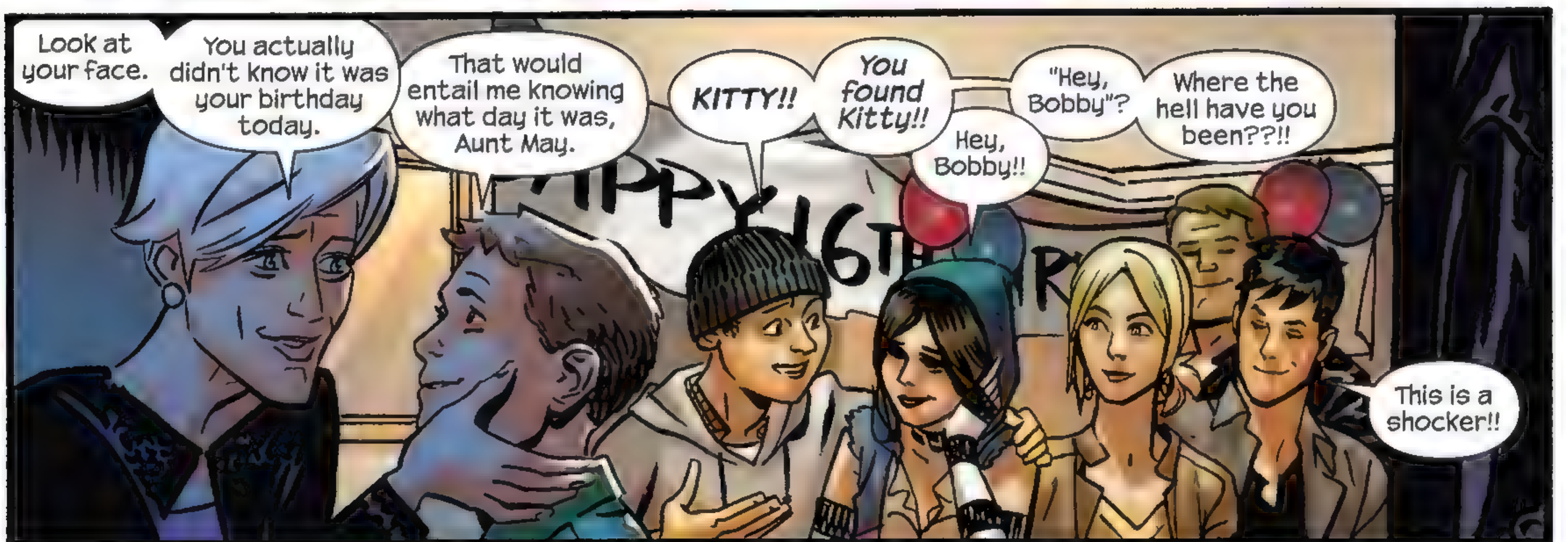
Yeah, but not at *me*.

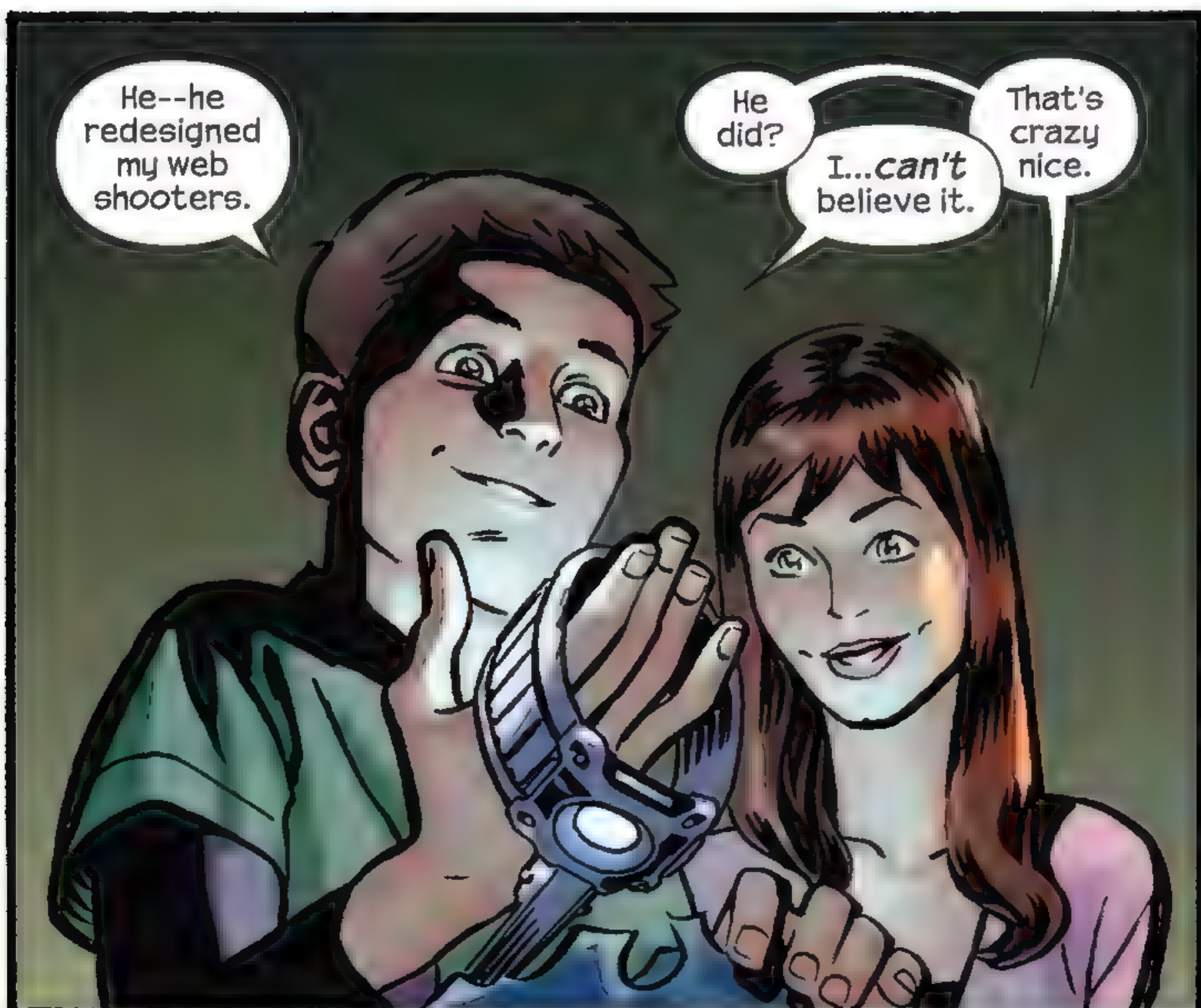
Not at your friends.

I know.

Hey, where's Kong? Where's your boyfriend?









So,
about the
other night.

I love
you.



All this
crazy we've been
through this year...
I see you. None of
it matters.

Not
Kitty?

Are you
listening
to me?

Yes.

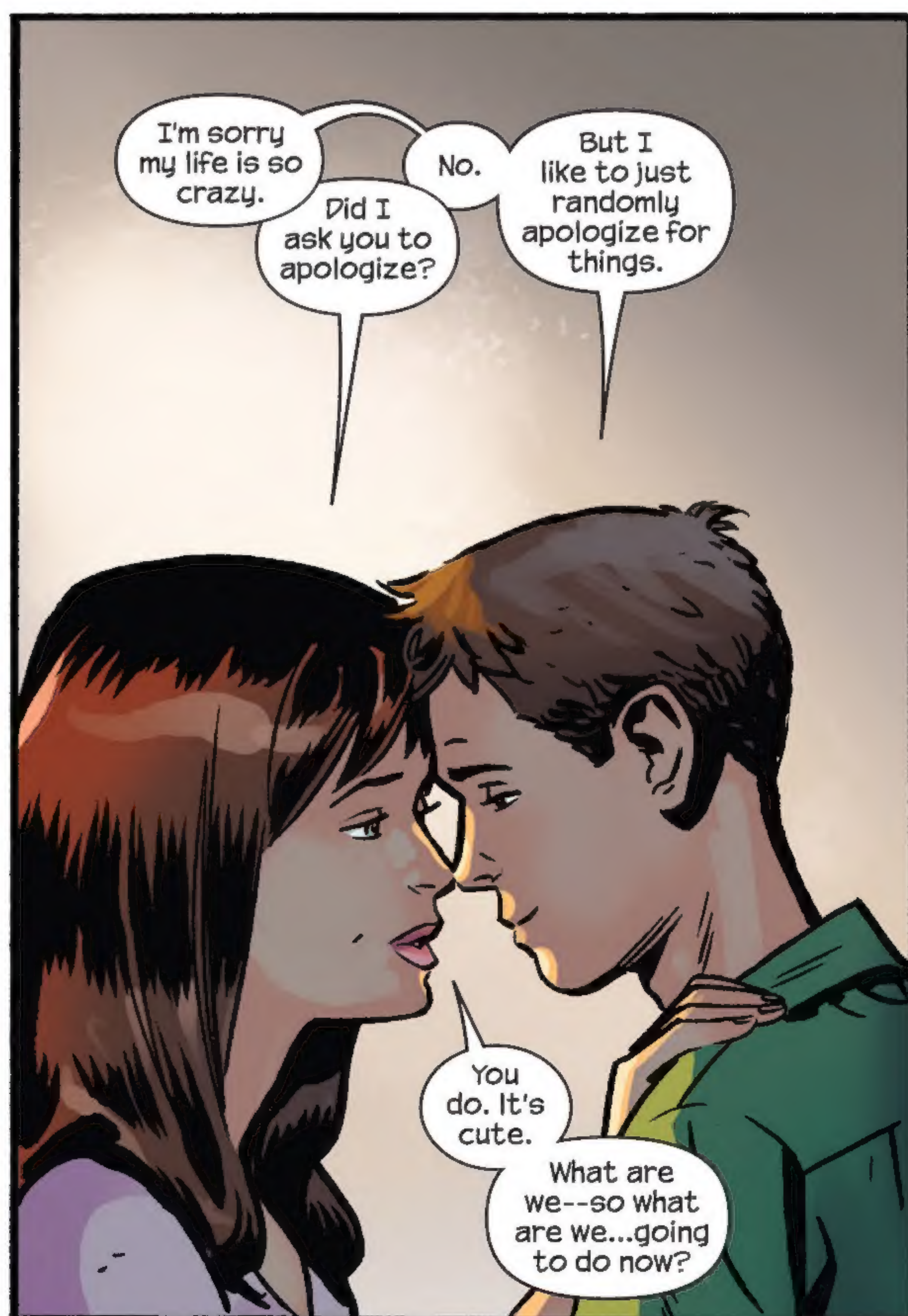
I'm going
to earn you
back.



You
got me
back.

Really?

I mean,
yeah. Duh.



I'm sorry
my life is so
crazy.

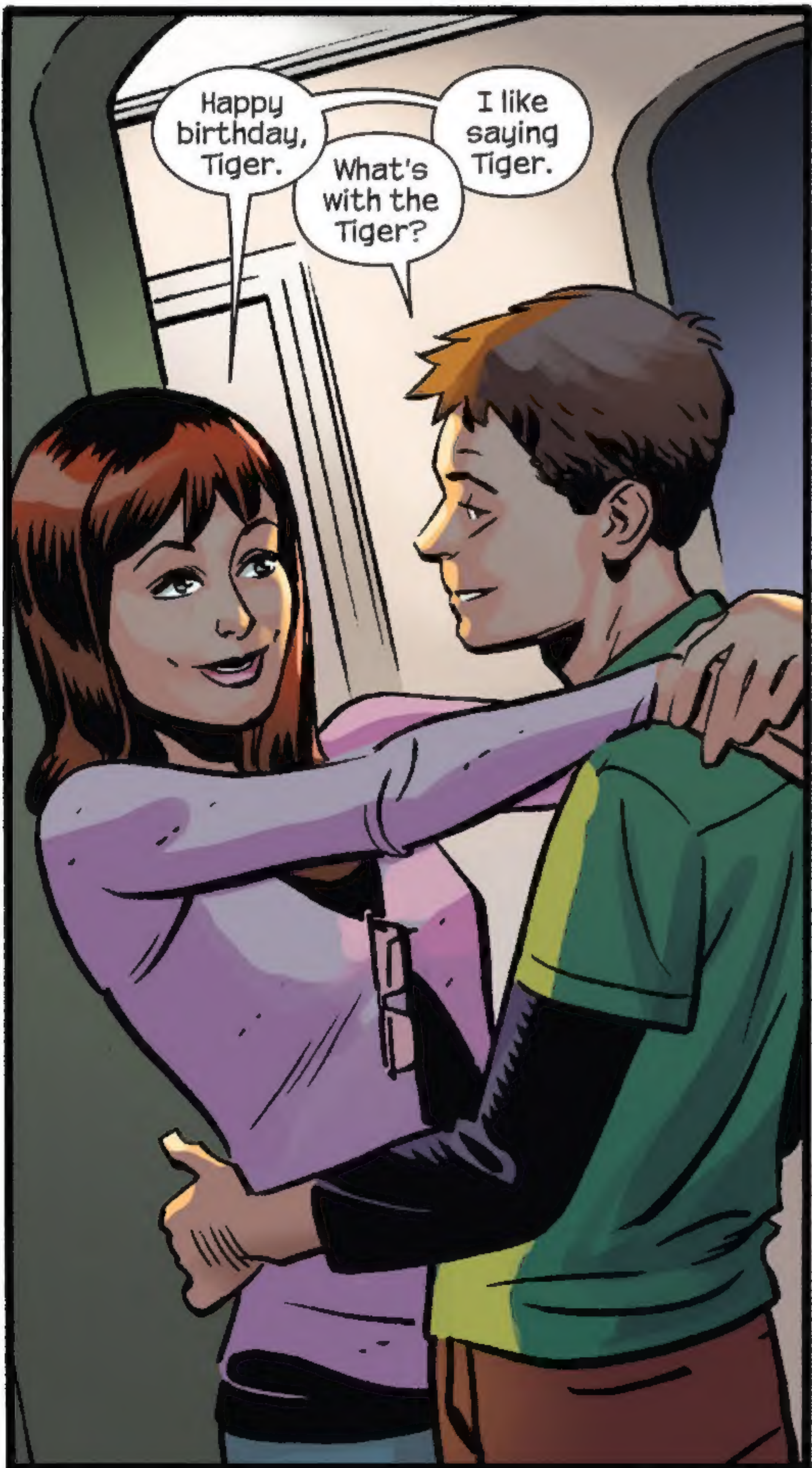
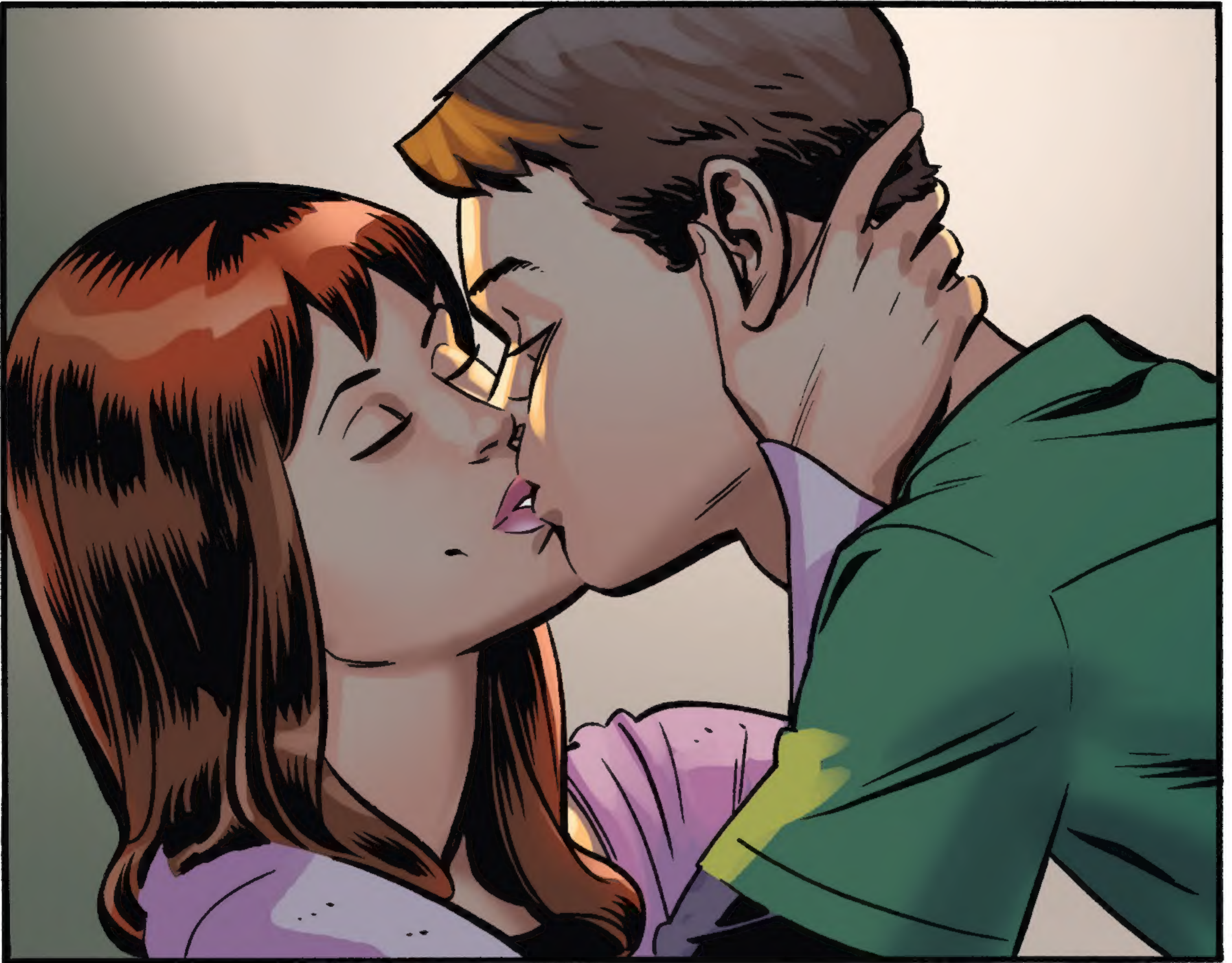
Did I
ask you to
apologize?

No.

But I
like to just
randomly
apologize for
things.

You
do. It's
cute.

What are
we--so what
are we...going
to do now?



NEXT ISSUE

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COMICS
ON SALE**



DEATH of SPIDER-MAN?!



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**ULTIMATE AVENGERS
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DEATH OF SPIDER-MAN

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